



America. Courtesy National Maritime Museum, San Francisco.

Little is known of the passage except the marriage festivities for Joseph Cain and Elizabeth Whitaker, converts from the Isle of Man. John Taylor performed the ceremony while the ship was at latitude 48° 29' north and longitude 100° 24' west. According to the *Millennial Star*, the wind was "fresh on the starboard quarter," and the vessel was "under full sail at the rate of ten and a-half knots an hour." Feasting was to have followed the marriage, but a sudden squall with the wind dead ahead forced the square-rigger to tack. Soon seasickness reigned, and most passengers were unable to consume the pork, chicken, duck, and fish that had been served. In fact, much of the food eaten shortly went over the rail.

A fine product of New England shipwrights, the *America* was operated and owned by the Kingsland Line of New York. She also was listed in the Third Line and Brigham Line at various times. Built of oak, this vessel had two decks, a square stern, a woman figurehead, but no galleries. Her master on this voyage was Captain Trussell. During the Civil War, the *America* was sold to British owners.

AMERICAN CONGRESS

Ship: 863 tons: 162' x 34' x 17'
Built: 1849 at Newcastle, Maine

On 23 May 1866 three hundred fifty Mormons sailed from London for New York aboard the square-rigger *American Congress*. Elder John Nicholson was in charge of the emigrants. His counselors were Elders Joshua K. Whitney and John Rider. After an uneventful forty-two-day passage under the command of Captain H. C. Woodman (Woodward according to church records), the only tragedy occurred while the passengers were disembarking on 4 July. A young man from Hull, England, Robert Pike, fell from the gangplank into the water and was drowned.

The *American Congress* ran in the London Red Swallowtail Line for thirty years, surviving numerous storms. In 1871 on a crossing from London to New York the

Antarctic. Painting by F. E. Butterworth (N. Currier lithograph).
Courtesy National Maritime Museum, San Francisco.



wind swept away all but one of her studding booms. Eventually the crew cut it adrift. Later under the command of Captain Ghiselin the ship went missing.

AMERICAN UNION

Ship: 1146 tons: 181' x 37' x 19'
Built: 1851 at Damariscotta, Maine

On 17 November 1852 Elders Edward Stevenson, Nathan T. Porter, and some other missionaries sailed from New York aboard the Yankee square-rigger *American Union*. The vessel arrived at Liverpool on 5 January 1853—a forty-nine-day passage. Stevenson and Porter were the first missionaries sent to Gibraltar, Spain, which was Stevenson's birthplace. These two elders continued on to Gibraltar aboard the steamship *Iberia*. The *American Union* operated in the Fourth or Swallowtail Line, the Blue Ball Line, and New Orleans Packet Line. After 1877 she became a transient.

ANTARCTIC

Ship: 1116 tons: 177' x 37' x 23'
Built: 1850 by Donald McKay at Boston, Massachusetts

Three Mormon emigrant companies came to America in the packet ship *Antarctic*. This famous square-rigger was owned by Augustus Zerega and George C. Stouffer, her master on all three voyages. She was a two-decker with a square stern and bilthead. One noteworthy passage was made in 1853 when the *Antarctic* sailed into New York harbor in an unseaworthy condition and her flag at half mast because some sixty passengers had died of smallpox. In 1864 this American packet was sold to foreigners.

From "Ships, Saints & Mormons," by Conway B. Seavey